Art Sample

UNG Best Day Ever!: The Legacy of UNG’s Gainesville Campus

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The Legacy of UNG’s Gainesville Campus
Bonita Jacobs, Ph.D. Richard Oates, Ed.D. Illustrated by J’Nelle Short
Since he started school at the University of North Georgia’s Gainesville campus, Ana Green’s dad keeps talking about his best day ever. As the Green family prepares for the annual Starlight Celebration by touring campus and visiting Gainesville landmarks, Ana is determined to discover what makes a good day great. Will Ana make the Starlight Celebration the Best Day Ever?
Meet the Green Family

Ana Green is our main character. Inspired by the UNG Best Day Ever coin her father received on graduation day at the UNG Gainesville campus, Ana dreams of getting a giant coin of her own. She is sociable and inquisitive, and in her mission to discover the best day ever, she brightens everyone else’s day as she collects their stories.

Ana and her family are of Hispanic heritage. She has dark brown eyes and long, straight brown hair. She wears a white shirt with a denim jacket, a red skirt, and light blue leggings.
Meet the Green Family

Mr. Green is Ana’s father. He is ambitious, giving, and works hard to care for his loved ones. His best day ever was when he graduated with a college degree in communication, which he earned while raising a family. He loves to share the history of the Gainesville campus and community with his daughter as they visit its many landmarks.

Mr. Green has brown eyes, short, wavy black hair, and wears a white shirt, gray pants, and square glasses.

Grandmother Green is Ana’s grandmother. Generations of the Green family have lived in Gainesville, and she can’t wait to show Ana where she and Grandpa grew up.

Grandmother Green has brown eyes and short, straight white hair. She wears a green shirt, pearl earrings, and round glasses.
Gainesville Landmarks

The UNG Gainesville campus has a close relationship with the larger community. Below are the landmarks Ana and her family visit while preparing for the Starlight Celebration.

**UNG Gainesville Campus**
- Nighthawk statue
- Outdoor amphitheater
- Quad
- Clock tower
- Ed Cabell Theatre
- Loyd Strickland Academic Building
- Student Center
- Administration Building
- Hugh Mills Physical Education Building
- Health Sciences Building

**Gainesville, GA**
- Green Street Historical District
- Main Street Historic Downtown Square
- Poultry monument
- Engine 209 Park
- Chicopee Woods Bridge Loop
Notable community mentions

Gainesville Convention and Visitors Bureau

Northeast Georgia Health System

Southern Off-Road Bicycle Association

American Cancer Society Relay for Life for Hall County

UNG Food Pantry
“Can we ride this train back to UNG’s Gainesville Campus?” Ana asked, jumping up and down when she saw an old locomotive and caboose.
A woman overheard Ana and laughed. “I would love to do that, too. I used to work at the school, and I could tell time by the sound of the train whistle. I’d know when it was time to go home when I heard that whistle.”

Ana sighed, “I wish I could blow the train whistle and ride the train all over campus. That would help me find the best day ever before the Starlight Celebration begins.”
About the Authors

Bonita Jacobs is president of the University of North Georgia. She took office as the 17th president of North Georgia College & State University as the University’s first woman president and only the second to lead one of the country’s six Senior Military Colleges. Jacobs has been named as one of the “100 Most Influential Georgians” by Georgia Trend magazine and one of the “Women Who Mean Business” and “Top Education Leaders in Atlanta” by the Atlanta Business Chronicle. Among her many initiatives at UNG, Dr. Jacobs’ scholarship support for students has been a major priority. Her inauguration in 2013 was celebrated with the first Scholarship Gala. Since then, the UNG Foundation has awarded more than $7 million for scholarships. All proceeds from the sale of this book will go toward scholarships for UNG students across all five campuses.

Richard Oates is vice president of the Gainesville Campus and Professor of Physical Education at the University of North Georgia (UNG). In 2012, Oates was recognized by the Atlanta Business Chronicle as one of the “Top 100 Leaders in Education” for the metro Atlanta area. He has served as vice president and on the Executive Board of the National Association for Kinesiology in Higher Education (NAKHE), through which he was recognized as its 2016 Distinguished Administrator and received the association’s distinguished service award in 2020. He currently serves the Boy Scouts of America as a member of the Northeast Georgia Council’s Executive Committee and on the Board of Directors of the Elachee Nature Center, the Northeast Georgia YMCA, and the UNG Athletics Hall of Fame.

About the Illustrator

Illustrator J’Nelle Short grew up in East Texas and attended Stephen F. Austin University where she earned her BFA. Upon graduating, she worked as a graphic artist for six years before finding her calling in education. She has been cultivating the creativity of her students for 33 years through her art classes and has been named “Teacher of the Year” six times. Short is a vibrant force in her community, serving as coordinator of the annual Veterans Day Celebration, Operation Fly-a-Flag, and Garden Club. Her art passions are many but include watercolor, graphic design, and large-scale murals. She loves life and enjoys decorating, traveling, and scuba diving.